Presentation Evenings: (Yr 1 - 3) 5/12/13 (Yr 4 - 6)

Perhaps the most common response from a child in relation to the question of homework is “No, I don’t have any homework tonight”. The truth is kids will always need to study and as such will always have school work to do at home.

**Homework vs Study**

Are you aware that study is not just completing assignments or homework? Students often think study is just completing assigned work, but study should be carried out to supplement both homework and assignments and there is always study to do. So what is ‘study’; well it is certainly not something only the “smart” students do, but it is something that takes organisation, time and effort. It is a process of doing things frequently, work that you have set yourself. It has a focus on routine, it is a repeating practise until you are confident with the content. It is taking questions to your teacher or your class mates when you don’t understand, and it avoids the “cram” at the last minute.

**Study is the process that should help you retain what you are taught and what you learn in the long term.**

By studying what is taught, students are better able to:
- recall it
- use it
- explain it to other, and
- achieve results that are the best reflection of their ability

Students forget what they learn very quickly. A day after the lesson, if nothing is done with the information, they will have lost 50% - 80% of what was taught. Seven days later, even less, and by day 30 we retain about 2% - 3% of the original information. After each lesson students need to revise and practise so that they can use the knowledge they already have. They’ll remember things much better if they go over concepts very soon after they first learnt them. Reviewing learnt material on the same day will help them remember almost all they have learnt.

A week later a 5 minute review will ‘reactivate’ the same material and they will be able to retain almost 100%. By day 30, their brain will only need a few minutes to recall the necessary information.

**Some simple strategies:**
1. Add detail to the information - read around the topic (do more research on the topic)
2. Re-organize the information - draw mind maps, make flash cards, rewrite notes in a summary book, use mnemonics (memory retainers), set Ideas in song, use initial letters to make a word (rainbow colours - ROYGBIV), make rhymes, draw pictures or make models.
3. Actively think about the material, use related questions (in an exercise from the text or another source) to see how much you really do understand.
4. Ask, does it make sense? - If not, see the teacher the next day. They will be only too happy to help a studious student.
5. Make it meaningful - how does it apply to you and others?
6. Make connections with other things you know.

So next time you ask your child if they have any homework and the answer is ‘no’, remember there is always study to be done. To our students, I say try the above for one topic, I’m sure your results will improve.

**Mr Hugo de Ridsber**

Reference: “Study putting the pieces together” – Buchanan & Chambers tin
CONGRATULATIONS!

John Broome, Year 12, 2012.

John received two awards following his studies in 2012. John was part of our successful hybrid programme and received an award for outstanding achievement in Occupational Health & Safety and Furniture Making.

Stephanie Mathys, Year 12 2012

Stephanie recently received an offer of a scholarship to attend Curtin University.

Well done, Stephanie!

Keaton Staszewski-Hose (Year 10) who recently attended UWA Australian Music Examination Board Awards Night and was awarded an Award for Excellence in Piano.

Well done Keaton!

Grace Christian School Year 12 Ball for 2013

On Saturday night, Grace Christian School held its annual Ball in the Auditorium situated on the Grace Campus. The theme for this year was “Under the Sea” and was attended by year 10, 11, 12 students and Staff. Approximately 100 people arrived in transport varying from fire engines to wheel barrows and an assortment of beautiful vehicles. The students looked fantastic in an array of gowns and suits. Partnering with the Ball committee, parents and members of the Grace community worked hard to create a wonderful atmosphere of “Under the Sea”. Many thanks go to all those who helped in transforming the auditorium into an Aquarium of life and colour and made the night a huge success. It started with Mocktails and entrée in the front foyer set up as a beach front, with umbrellas and deck chairs, sunshades and surfboards. Students then walked through a cave into an underwater extravaganza. A sunken boat, sea life of all colours and shapes, crays and sunken treasure were all on display and looked incredible, thanks to very creative and hardworking Staff and Parents.

In life, every decision that we make, will have either a good or bad outcome, depending on the choices that we make. It is important for our students to understand the importance of making ‘good choices’ and having a reason for making that choice. As part of our discipline policy, teachers spend a lot of time training students behaviour, so that students develop Godly character and make good choices.

To compliment what teachers are already doing in class, I have introduced a spot within our assemblies, which we are calling “GOOD CHOICES”. Different students are chosen each assembly to come up on stage and answer a simple scenario. This requires them to think about what choices they would make if they were in that situation and why? I am excited with the amount of students that are coming up to me in the playground and telling me about the good choices that they are making in class and with their friends.

Finally, last week our Pre-Primary had an usually ‘Wacky Wednesday’. As part of their literacy programme, they decided that a MUD PLAY DAY was needed. What an incredible opportunity and experience they had together. I am not sure who got dirtier, the students or the teachers, but it is something that will be remembered with delight.

Mrs Donna Holman
Head of Junior School

Students enjoyed a three course meal finishing with a dessert of shells, aquariums and beach sand. Thank you to Carol Turner one of our wonderful parents, her crew of helpers and Year 9 students who served tirelessly. The night was spent eating and dancing to a balance of old and new songs which catered for all ages thanks to our DJ, Jacob Moore. This great night was a celebration to our current year 12’s and displayed the wonderful community that Grace Christian School has to make an event like this possible. A great night was had by all. (See Thursday’s South Western Times for more photos)

Mr Scott de Ridder
Grace Ball Committee

Thank you to Mrs Rhonda Lindberg for the above ball photos. For more..., see the schools website (www.grace.wa.edu.au)
Year 11 camp

DAY 1 #whatsleftwiththesexamphiles

Energies were high as the whole high school congregated on the lawn. There were bags and sleeping bags piled ready for the dispersion of students to the four points of the south-west. Jerred, Josh, Corbin and John were playing lively street reggae much to the joy of the whole high school. Anticipation hung in the air to the theme of music carried over from last year’s successful Year 10 camp. What would this year’s camp to Dwellungup be like?

The slick trip up the Forrest Highway and across the Pinjarra flats and up the Darling Range saw the bus’s GPS fail and this left the crew wondering what kind of camp was planned. A battle of music reflected the navigational confusion as Justin Bieber, Roxette and various acoustic songs clashed. Finally we arrived at Dare Adventures in temperatures that were perhaps the hottest in the history of the universe; temperatures exacerbated by the summer-bathed glaring white sand that somehow found its way to the top of the Darling Range. The march files slinging our legs somehow just made the day that much hotter. We also met our fellow camp residents from Corrigin DHS.

The AM of the first day saw morning tea and sweaty bushwalk. We scrambled for shade while lunches were consumed. Archery was a new experience for some. Gaylena missed the target and threatened the wildlife well and truly behind the target. Katie, however, assertively sunk an arrow hinting that she had done this sport before. Jay has a new nickname – Robin Hood.

The heat knocked the crew for a six. Everyone just wanted the day to be over. Mrs Chatman led a great devotion on “cleaning out your lower school junk”. After devotions and tea there was a “night walk”. It was only good manners that stopped people whinging about this one. Strange how things like this turn out though. The crew had to walk in the middle of a Jarrah Forest without the use of a torch – a scary prospect. Once your eyes adjusted, it was fine. In fact, there was something really nice about being out there in the quietness of an ancient forest.

DAY 2 #fashouldiwearthisuntotheball

A refreshing shower of rain in the night and a cool morning breeze put a broom through the heat for Day 2. Katie gave a fabulous devotion on talking wisely and foolishly. With helmets and glow jackets donned, we hit the Mountain Bike trail. Cherrycotte wondered whether such bicycle accessories would also double as Bell attire.

After morning tea, team games filled our agenda with Helen (the activity leader) commenting how well the group was already meshed. The heat was once again raising its ugly head and the promise of canoeing in the Murray River was looking very inviting indeed.

Life Jackets and joggers had some of the fashion conscious excited as we hit the Murray River. Nobubele was an early victim of capsizing. Games of “thread the inner-tube” and “tag me if you can” allowed us to cool down and have some fun. Once again, the musical lads entertained us as they were responsible for leading out in devotions.

After tea we played Jenga and Runny Rummy. The Corbinator (Daniel) was the clear champ accumulating 36 points. Daniel later confessed to playing the game regularly.

Somehow pillows ended up in the shower cubicles? An interesting “water therapy” for the sleep deprived – but no revenge taken.

Mr Paul Walker
and Year 12 Students
Day 3 #lets cleanup# #we want to swim# #homejames#

Rise and shine. After Crystal’s great devotion on giving people a second chance, it was time to clean up. The activity shifted to a swim at Bob’s Crossing. In some ways this was a cleansing experience with the dust washed off and the march fly bites soothed. Back to camp for lunch and some farewells. On the way home we stopped for an ice-cream at Pinjarra. Most slept on the bus on the way home — only to be woken with the hiss of the bus’ air break as we pulled up at Grace.

Many thanks to Dare Adventures Dwellingup, John the bus driver, the students and staff of Corrigin DHS and the fellow campers from Grace Christian School — a great camp was had by all.

Mr Lindon Chatman and Year 11 Students

The Year 7 camp was held at Mornington Adventure Camp. Below are some student accounts of their experiences:

Archery
We did archery instead of abseiling because the abseiling structure was being repaired. We met Pete (our instructor) down there to teach us how to do archery. Our group was the first to use the PCYC’s new equipment. At first the string hit my arm twice but I got used to it and I didn’t get hit again. As I practiced I got better at aiming, and soon I was able to hit a nine. Oliver

Flying Fox
As we walked down to the flying fox I was a bit nervous because this was my first time doing flying fox in my entire life. As I looked over the side of the bars it looked like 100 meters down to the ground but was only like 14 meters. Then Mr Meyer called me up and said “Daniel, you are going first so we can see if it still works.” I said to myself “What! They are testing the thing on me!” I had to climb this ladder thing to get up to the seat. It was a bit of a shuffle to get into the bright yellow and blue coloured seat. Mr Meyer

Raft Building
We were instructed by Dan, who told us to firstly split into two groups, which somehow became boys vs. girls (surprise, surprise), and secondly, construct a raft, however we wanted, using immense, blue, plastic barrels, very muddy rope nets, a long, black rope and some tall, wooden poles. Dan then said, “I’ll give you a hint: one of these things you don’t really need.” The groups started immediately. Barrels were being rolled in all directions as the groups rushed to build their rafts; but, unluckily for the girls, only the boys checked to see if there were holes in the barrels. Jordan

One of our activities whilst at the raft building station was a rescue challenge. I think the instructor was picking on me when he chose me to be paralysed at the east end of the dam. Little did I know that while I was ‘paralysed’ I was laying in an ants nest! When the boys “saved” me they did a horrible job. They nearly drowned me, pushed me off the raft, “accidentally” hit me over the head with a paddle, splashed me and then made me push the raft. It was at that moment I decided to NEVER let myself be saved by boys EVER again. Georgia

At year 7 camp there were lots of activities but I enjoyed low ropes the best. I liked it because we had to work as a team and we had to find out how we were going to attempt the challenges. The first challenge we had to do was the Swinging Log of Doom! It was a big log attached to two trees with chains, and it would swing if you pushed it. Our team managed to balance, standing on the log, all at once, for 15 seconds! Mya

Raft Building at the Year 7 Camp
Raft building was the first activity for group 2. When we arrived at the dam, all hot and insect bitten, the dam was an inviting view. The moment I saw that glittering dam, I had an urge to dive in. Lucky for us, teachers Mr Meyer and Mrs Jolly were there to hold a restraining hand on us. We were ushered into a tin shed where we met our instructor, Brenda. She gave us a rundown of what we were going to do for the afternoon. While she explained this to us, I couldn’t help grinning with glee. Brenda then, with Ben to demonstrate, showed us how to paddle forwards, backwards and how to hold the paddle correctly. She then split us into 2 different teams, team 1 and team 2. Finally, Brenda gave us permission to go and start building.

With limited supplies, we were restricted from complicated designs. Everyone, excitement running through us, rushed to the barrels. It was a race to get to the barrels, and everyone grabbed any barrel, rolling it back to the group building areas. Maybe we should have inspected our equipment, maybe we should have thought of a better plan, but we didn’t. We simply rolled the barrels together, tied them up together, threaded the long, black rope through the holes and tightened the knots as tight as we could. Both teams were done in a flash, so Brenda called us back in. She ran us through some safety procedures before she sent us on our ‘maiden voyage.’ Challenged to get to the buoy first, we raced to our rafts, showing them in. The moment I stepped into the chilled water, I felt so relaxed. Daniel

We all dragged our paddles and raft to the shore, where we were quizzed on why we thought our rafts had failed. After thinking for a while, we realized that almost all our barrels had holes in them. We then had to undo everything, tip the water out, and start again. Once again, we set off. This time, none of the rafts fell apart, though one went drastically slower than the other. My groups raft went slower than a snail. After we reached the other side of the dam, we were told to travel all the way back again, leaving a person on each team behind. Having no clue what was going on, we raced back. Realizing that the raft was too crowded, a few of us, me included, jumped off, towing the raft behind us. This changed the game, and we streaked ahead of the other team. Reaching the other side first, we were elated. Victorious, we waved our hands to the other team, who were barely halfway across the dam.
When they finally reached the gravelly shore, we were herded to the equipment shed. We then stopped for afternoon tea, which we ate with relish. Brenda then gave us a scenario. Alone, camping by ourselves, we had just eaten our last scrap of food. A couple of guys had gone in search of food, and had not returned. We had to go and find them. Racing against each other, we shoved our rafts into the dam. Going as speedy as possible, we reached the far shore. After searching in the insect ridden bush, we found Hayden. He complained of a broken leg, so we made him a splint. Half carrying, half dragging, we dumped him onto the raft. Pushing off the shore, we swam and paddled to the other side. Hayden, who was in 'deep shock,' rolled off the raft, hitting many people on the head with a board we had supplied him with. Finally, we were the winning team. Thrilled, we hooted and cheered. We untied our raft, and sabotaged all the barrels, putting holes in them for the next group. With time left over, we were allowed to swim. It was good to swim without rushing, though the worry of a 'crocodile' stopped some from swimming.

Raft building was a remarkable experience, one that I will never forget.

By Brian Chi/Year 7

Grace Helpers

Thank you to all who have returned the feedback forms, and are still contemplating service areas and interests willing to be shared.

Our 'Grace Helpers' are certainly appreciated and are an active part of the school community. We encourage everyone to be involved when they are able.

Helper information will be available to all staff in the next week, so please be patient if we haven’t been in touch as yet.

Please contact Marie at Reception if you have any questions, need a form or need to update details and availability.

Thank you to everyone who has helped out so far. We are honoured by your willingness to contribute to our school community.

School Ball Photos

School Ball photos are available to view at Student Services. Photos must be ordered and be paid for before 27 March. Thank you.

Secondary Assistance Scheme - forms are available from the school office for students enrolled in Years 8 - 12 studying a full-time secondary course.

The claimant must hold one of the following cards:

- Centrelink Family Health Care card
- Centrelink Pensioner Concession card
- Department of Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession card

Grace Christian School

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for this part-time position.

The successful applicant will be a committed Christian actively involved in a local church.

The position will provide the initial point of public contact and ensure the school is presented in a welcoming, friendly and professional manner.

The position requires exceptional public relations skills and the capacity to effectively promote the school and its programs, as well as provide administration/secretarial support from time to time and respond to general queries.

A position description and application form is available on request from Mrs Sandra Dinkelman, 9726 4200

Applications close: 2 April 2013

An unexpected orange gift turns up at Grace Christian School

Earlier this year we were blessed with a large orange gift.

Whilst it cannot be juiced, it certainly will be used to keep the grounds in the wonderful condition we have become accustomed to.

We would like to extend our appreciation to Mr Steve and Mrs Maxine Joly for their generous gift of a Husqvana Ride on mower donated to the school.

Thank you, and may the Lord bless your generosity.
Year 8 – 10 Boys

Vaccinations took place on 9 March at school. If your child was absent on this day and for your child to continue with the schedule at school, he will need to see a doctor to have the first dose. This first dose will need to be administered before 18th April.

In order for the nurses to give dose 2 of the Gardasil vaccine at school in Term 2, you will need to provide proof in writing following your child’s vaccination by the doctor.

Dose 2 of the Gardasil vaccination will take place at school on 23 May, week 3 of Term 2.

Please direct any queries to the School Based Immunisation Program, Bunbury Community Health, Hudson Road on telephone 9335 2845.

Nutrition Corner

The Department of Health latest survey estimates that nearly one fifth of children in the South West are either overweight or obese. Some of the reasons our kids are becoming heavier include outside influences such as where we live, advertising and peer pressure. But two important factors that parents have influence over is the amount of physical activity their kids do and what they eat. It’s important that school lunchboxes are made up of foods from the five food groups: fruit, vegetables, breads or cereals, meats and dairy foods. Recipe ideas on how to include these groups will be included in future snippets.

Enquiries: WA Country Health Service - South West on 9781 2353

Fundraising concert – Rock the Well

In October 2012 some students and staff from Thornlie Christian College travelled to Zimbabwe on a mission trip. During the tour they came across some boys from a local village, Phukamani walking to collect water. The round trip is approximate 10km. On this particular day, the river bed was dry and the boys returned with only half a 600ml bottle of water given to them by a member of the tour group.

On returning home, the group were strongly convinced to help this village with their water problem, and decided to install a well in the village. The cost to have the well installed is $10,000.

Through internal funding they have raised approximately $3,000 and are hoping to raise more funds at a fundraising concert on 3rd April. There will be a sausage sizzle dinner and refreshments on the night.

Tickets available from toc@christian.com.au at $15 each or $50 for 4.

When: Wednesday, 3rd April

Venue: Thornlie Christian College

19 Furley Rd, Southern River

6:00pm – 8:30pm

Bands performing on the night:

6.00pm Sun Trees No walls

6.30pm Available at the Counter

7.30pm Safe Haven

Friday 10 May & Saturday 11 May

Friday - SunSmart Kids Triathlon

Saturday - SunSmart Ironman 70.3 Triathlon

If you have a group that you would like to register please feel free to contact Emma at Triathlon WA on 08 9444 0406 or admin@triathlonwa.asn.au

There are also approximately 400 volunteer positions available in the following positions:

* Registration
* Tent Staff
* Aid Stations
* Swim and Run Course Staff
* Crossing points
* Transition Areas
* Finish line and recovery

If you would like to assist as a volunteer, please register at http://www.busseltonhalf.com/volunteers/

Week 2: Monday, 4th February – Friday, 19th April

Term 2: Tuesday, 7th May – Friday, 5th July

Term 3: Wednesday, 24th July – Friday, 27th September

Term 4: Tuesday, 15th October – Friday, 13th December